

CLAIMS:**What is claimed is:**

1. A method for managing configuration information in a storage controller, the method comprising:
5 connecting a removable non-volatile memory module to a first storage controller; and
responsive to a given event, storing configuration information from the first storage controller to the removable non-volatile memory module.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the given event is one of an expiration of a period of time and an express instruction from an operator.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the given event is an express command from an operator through one of interface software and a boot menu console.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
5 responsive to a restore event, restoring the configuration information from the removable non-volatile memory module to the first storage controller.
- 20 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the restore event is an express command from an operator through one of interface software and a boot menu console.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
5 disconnecting the removable non-volatile memory module from the first storage controller.
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7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
connecting the removable non-volatile memory module to a second storage controller.

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8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

responsive to a restore event, restoring the configuration information from the removable non-volatile memory module to the second storage controller.

5 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the restore event is an express command from an operator through one of interface software and a boot menu console.

10. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

determining whether the configuration information is compatible with the second storage controller; and

responsive to the configuration information not being compatible with the second storage controller, notifying an operator of incompatible configuration information.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration information includes at least one of configuration data, firmware, bootware images, and component summary data.

12. A storage controller, comprising:

a processor;

a memory electrically coupled to the processor;

20 an externally accessible socket interface, wherein the externally accessible socket interface provides an electrical connection to the processor; and

a removable non-volatile memory module electrically coupled to the processor through the externally accessible socket interface,

wherein the processor, responsive to a given event, stores configuration information from

25 the memory to the removable non-volatile memory module.

13. The storage controller of claim 12, wherein the externally accessible socket interface is a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association card slot.

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14. The storage controller of claim 12, wherein the given event is one of an expiration of a period of time and an express instruction from an operator.

15. The storage controller of claim 12, wherein the configuration information includes at least 5 one of configuration data, firmware, bootware images, and component summary data.

16. The storage controller of claim 12, wherein the removable non-volatile memory module is a flash memory module.

10 17. The storage controller of claim 16, wherein the flash memory module has a flash file system format for storing data.

18. An apparatus for managing configuration information in a storage controller, the apparatus comprising:

15 means for connecting a removable non-volatile memory module to a first storage controller; and

means, responsive to a given event, for storing configuration information from the first storage controller to the removable non-volatile memory module.

20 19. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising:

responsive to a restore event, restoring the configuration information from the removable non-volatile memory module to the first storage controller.

20. The method of claim 18, further comprising:

25 responsive to a restore event, restoring the configuration information from the removable non-volatile memory module to a second storage controller.